

A1
fluid regaining layer, the synthetic resin fibers of these layers are hot welded together at contact points of these fibers. As used herein, the term "compression resilience" refers to a property that a fibrous web can be compressed and restored in a direction of its thickness as resiliently as rubber or soft urethane foam.- -

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 4 with the following:

A2
--(3) At least the two panels are placed upon each other in the direction of thickness so that each of the openings formed in an upper one of the panels is divided by the barrier formed in the panel immediately underlying the upper one of the panels at least in two sections.- -

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 7 and continuing on page 8 with the following:

A3
--Each of the openings 2 is defined by a pair of the adjacent first barriers 3a and a pair of the adjacent second barriers 3b intersecting said pair of the adjacent first barriers 3a. In the panel 1, the openings 2 of the first panel 1A are out of coincidence with the openings 2 of the second panel 1B so that each of the openings 2 in the first panel 1A may be divided by the first and second barriers 3a, 3b of the second panel 1B in a plurality of sections, including at least in two sections. In the panel 1, a total area occupied by the openings 2 in the first panel 1A and a total area occupied by the openings 2 in the second panel 1B are in a relationship of the first panel < the second panel.- -

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 9 continuing on page 10 with the following:

A4
--The shape keeping layer L1 particularly comprising the synthetic resin fibers presents

44 a higher resistance to the pressure than the body fluid retaining layer L2 and has a compression resilience. In this manner, a resistance of the barrier 3 against the pressure as well as a restorative elasticity after compression of the barrier 3 can be reliably achieved. In the body fluid retaining layer L2, on the other hand, it is less likely that the polymer particles might fall off from the body fluid retaining layer L2 even if the barrier 3 is collapsed since the synthetic resin fibers and the polymer particles are hot welded at the contact points thereof.- -

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A6 Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 13 and continuing on page 14 with the following:

- -The synthetic resin fibers used to implement this invention may be selected from a group including fibers made of a polyolefin such as a polypropylene or a polyethylene, fibers made of a polyester such as a polyethylene terephthalate or a polybutylene terephthalate, fibers made of a polyamide such as a nylon 66 or a nylon 6, or acryl fibers. It is also possible to use core-sheath-type conjugated fibers or side-by-side-type conjugated fibers of a polyethylene/a polypropylene or a polyester as said synthetic resin fibers. The synthetic resin fibers are preferably treated to make them hydrophilic. The body fluid retaining layer may contain, in addition to the fluff pulp, cellulose-based fibers such as rayon or acetate fibers.- -

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 18 and continuing on page 19 with the following:

A6 - -The topsheet 11 may be formed from a liquid-pervious sheet such as a nonwoven fabric or a porous plastic film, preferably with a liquid-pervious hydrophilic sheet. The backsheet 12 and the leak-proof sheets 14 may be formed from a hydrophobic nonwoven fabric, a liquid-impervious plastic film or a laminated sheet of a hydrophobic nonwoven fabric and a plastic film,

preferably with a breathable but liquid-impervious sheet. It is also possible to form the backsheet and the leak-barrier sheets using composite nonwoven fabric consisting of a melt blown nonwoven fabric having a high water-resistance and two layers of a spun bond nonwoven fabric having high strength and flexibility sandwiching the melt blown nonwoven fabric.- -

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 19 with the following:

- The nonwoven fabric may be selected from a group including spun lace-, needle punch-, melt blown-, thermal bond-, spun bond-, chemical bond- and air through-nonwoven fabrics. Component fiber of the nonwoven fabric may be selected from a group including polyolefin-, polyester- and polyamide-based fibers and polyethylene/polypropylene or polyethylene/polyester core-sheath type conjugated fiber and side-by-side-type conjugated fiber.-

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 20 and continuing on page 21 with the following:

- According to the body fluid absorbent panel of the present invention, the barrier comprises the shape keeping layer in which the synthetic resin fibers are hot welded together at contact points of these fibers and the body fluid retaining layer in which the synthetic resin fibers are hot welded together at contact points of these fibers. This unique arrangement ensures the synthetic resin fibers to restrict themselves against any relative movement of these fibers so that the layers may be prevented from being collapsed. Even when these layers are more or less collapsed under a pressure exerted thereon in their thickness directions, the layers can restore their initial thickness. If the panel has not an adequate compression modulus to restore a desired thickness dimension after it has been collapsed, the volume of the barrier would be unacceptably reduced and its absorbing capacity for body fluids such as loose passage or menstrual discharge